

Ac 4412(3)

1 Mr Chapman SB  
2 Library  
(TP)



SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Kent

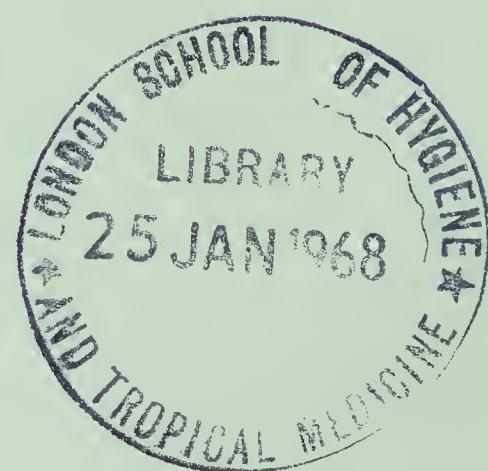
# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1956



Conc.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30088410>

S I T T I N G B O U R N E      A N D      M I L T O N  
U R B A N      D I S T R I C T      C O U N C I L

---

A N N U A L      R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1 9 5 6

---

JOHN T. MURPHY

M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

---

## CONTENTS

SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

Chairman:

Mrs. M.H. Rees, J.P. +

Vice-Chairman:

Mrs. D. Elvy, J.P. +

Councillors:

Mrs. A.B. Bassant	+
Mr. F. Bishop	+
Mr. A. Bottle	+
Mr. W.A.G. Brett	+
Mr. L.M. Easton	
Mr. S.F.J. Forster	
Mr. W.H. Mount	+
Mrs. J. Noble (C)	+
Mr. W.R. Packham	+
Mr. H.I. Price	+
Mr. K.R. Ravensdale	
Mr. C.F. Rhodes	+
Mr. H.A.J. Shortland	+
Mr. B.E. Tucker	+
Mr. W. Wyllie	+
Mrs. D.S.M. Young	+

---

(C) denotes Chairman of the Health Committee

+ denotes Members of the Health Committee

---

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

John T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

---

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Mr. Alexander Leslie, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., Cert. S.I.B.

## ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Mr. J.W. Kendall, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (Left - 31st July, 1956)

Mr. B. Hall, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (From - 1st January, 1957)

---

## RODENT OPERATOR:

Mr. W.G. Chamberlain.

---

## CHIEF CLERK:

Mr. O.A. Kent.

## CLERKS:

Mrs. P. Atkins (Left - 14th July, 1956)

Mrs. S. Willis

Miss B. Thomas (From - 30th July, 1956)

---

SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

Health Offices,  
Johnson House,  
Burley Road,  
SITTINGBOURNE, Kent.

June, 1957.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1956.

The Birth rate of 15.0 per 1,000 of the population is slightly less than the previous year, while the corrected Birth rate of 15.4 is just below the National figure of 15.7.

The number of Deaths increased by 50 during the year - this wide variation is due solely to the inclusion of the returns from Milton Hospital where the number of Deaths will show wide fluctuation; however, the corrected Death rate of 11.9 per 1,000 compares well with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The Deaths of nine infants under one year of age give a much higher Death rate than in the two preceding years. Seven of the Deaths occurred in the neo-natal period and indeed within the first week of separate existence - one only living for four days. It is these Deaths due to prematurity and congenital defects which present the most difficult barrier to further reduction in the infantile mortality rate - however, it will be expected that with greater knowledge of the causes of these Deaths and the ever wider acceptance of ante-natal services a lower incidence will result.

The small number of notifiable diseases, 47 for the year, is mainly accounted for by the absence of any large outbreaks of Measles or Whooping Cough. It is pleasing to record that no cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

Two important Public Health functions which are carried out by Voluntary Organisations in the Urban District, are Tuberculosis Care and After Care and Old People's Welfare. There is no doubt that the time and energy devoted by the Voluntary Workers in these two spheres, by kindness, care and consideration, results in improved conditions and the greatest benefits being received by these two sections of the Public.

Slum Clearance was halted temporarily during the year, due to a variety of causes. A considerable amount had already been done before the National slum clearance programme got under way, rehousing would have been impossible because the Council's housing programme could not have kept up with the slum clearance

and, additionally, your Chief Public Health Inspector had no assistance for the last five months of the year and his whole time was inevitably taken up with routine and other matters. The number of houses dealt with since the end of the War, either by slum clearance or individually unfit or by private undertakings, is 230.

I would like to thank the Members of the Public Health Department for the efficient carrying out of their duties especially Mr. A. Leslie, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for his help and co-operation and ready response to any extra effort in any emergency.

I would also thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their kind consideration and help throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN T. MURPHY

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

#### 1. Climatology

1956 was a year of many drastic and sudden weather changes, with heavy falls of snow in the early months and exceptionally high winds, gales and severe storms during the summer months.

A very sharp cold period commenced on the 31st January and lasted until 27th February, during which time a minimum temperature of  $10^{\circ}\text{F}$ . only was recorded (4th February). In the month of February there occurred heavy falls of snow on fourteen days in the Sittingbourne area and East Kent suffered with the heaviest falls for many years. There was also snow in January (4 days) and in March (1 day). Also in March, there was a second cold spell lasting from the 6th ultil the 19th, during which period the minimum temperature readings were well below  $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ . On the other hand, there was an unusually high maximum temperature recorded on the 27th March of  $70^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Appendix "B" shows that the minimum temperatures throughout the year were slightly lower, and maximum temperatures were also slightly lower, than in previous years, which indicates that the weather was generally cooler in the summer months and colder during the winter months.

During the month of June there was very heavy rainfall and many storms. There were further severe storms, with heavy rain, on the 9th, 16th and 29th July. The storm on the latter day, which was over a very wide area, caused considerable damage within the Urban District boundary, particularly to roofs of houses, and many large trees were blown over causing road blockages. The works of clearing up continued for several days after the storm.

On 6th August (August Bank Holiday) many houses and other property in the Canterbury Road area were flooded when the fringe of a severe hail storm from the Tunbridge Wells District hit the town. Within a very short time roadways and gardens were inches deep in hailstones which caused flooding and the diversion, for about 2 hours, of the holiday traffic from the coast on the main road.

The hottest day of the year was the 27th July, when the temperature reached  $89^{\circ}\text{F}$ . and the wettest month was January, when the rainfall recorded was 4.46 inches.

Monthly rainfall readings recorded at Highsted Waterworks over the past six years are shown in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B" shows the monthly maximum and minimum Temperatures for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956, which were recorded at Johnson House, Sittingbourne.

In connection with the rainfall figures over the past six years (Appendix "A") it is interesting to note that in the years 1951 and 1952 during the summer period of four months (May to August inclusive) the percentage of rainfall to that for the whole year was 28.5% and 21.6% respectively, whereas in the same period for the years 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956, the figures were 46.2%, 40.9%, 42.6% and 41.8% respectively. These figures tend to indicate that we do not now enjoy such long, dry periods at this particular time of the year. The recordings show that the wettest month during the past six years is August with an average of 3.33 inches, and the driest month is April with an average of 1.08 inches.

## 2. Area in Acres

Land and Inland Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,935
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

No change.

## 3. Population

The estimated mid-year population for 1956, as given by the Registrar-General, was 22,060 an increase of 90 against the estimated mid-year population for 1955. The census figure taken in April, 1951 was 21,904.

It is interesting to note that although the number of deaths exceeds the number of births during the year by as many as 65, the population itself has risen by 90, as indicated above, therefore the real increase in the population for the Urban District is 155, which surely indicates that there must be a considerable influx of residents into the town.

The enumerated population, according to age groups, at the Census taken on the 8th April, 1951, is shown in Appendix "C". These figures were supplied by the Registrar-General, as taken from Table 22, of the Kent County Report.

## 4. Number of Inhabited Houses

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956 was 6,950.

## 5. Rateable Value

The rateable value has risen to £306,687 as compared with £184,645 in 1955.

## 6. Sum Representing Penny Rate

The sum representing the penny rate is £1,245 as compared with £728 in 1955.

## SECTION II

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### 1. Births

The number of births registered during the year was 332, as compared with 343 registered in 1955, 316 in 1954 and 357 in 1953. Since the War, the year in which the highest number of births occurred was 1947, when 532 births were registered.

The number of births each year for the period from 1930 to 1956 will be seen upon reference to the details contained in Table III.

##### (a) Live Births

			Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	...	177 (178)	139 (149)	316 (327) *
Illegitimate	...	...	9 (14)	7 (2)	16 (16)
Totals			186 (192)	146 (151)	332 (343)

The percentage of illegitimate births shows a slight increase over that for 1955, being 5.0% as against 4.8%. The figures for previous years were as follows:-

6.0% in 1954; 5.0% for 1953; 4.5% for each of the years 1952, 1951, 1950 and 1947; 5.3% for 1949 and 3.1% for 1948.

##### (b) Birth Rate

The crude birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 15.0 in 1956 as against 15.6 in the previous year, 14.4 in 1954 and 16.2 in 1953. The figures for the years from 1930 to date will be seen upon reference to the details contained in Table III.

The corrected birth rate is 15.4, as compared with 15.7 per thousand for England and Wales as a whole.

##### (c) Still-Births

Seven still-births occurred during the year, as compared with 4 in 1955, 7 in 1954, 6 in 1953, 3 in 1952 and 8 in 1951. There were 15 still-births in 1947.

The percentage of still-births to live births for the year was 2.1%. This compares with the figures of 1.1% for 1955 and 2.2% for 1954.

Footnote:- \* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

There were no illegitimate still-births during the year.

## 2. Deaths

(a) The number of deaths occurring in and assignable to the Urban District during 1956 was 397. Of these, there were 207 males and 190 females.

There were 50 more deaths during the year under review than in the previous year, when 347 deaths occurred, and 79 more than in 1954 when 318 deaths were registered.

The increase in the number of deaths, as compared with previous years, is again due to the new arrangements adopted by the Registrar-General which came into force on the 1st January, 1953.

Figures for previous years may be seen upon reference to the details contained in Table III.

Of the 397 deaths assigned to Sittingbourne during 1956, a total of 146 occurred in Milton Hospital, but only 20 of these were of persons previously resident in the Urban District. The figures for 1955 were 347 - 128 and 23, and for 1954 were 318 - 117 and 26.

The average age of death was 70.6, being 67.4 for males and 74.1 for females. The oldest death was a female aged 98 years. The average age of death during 1955 was 71.9, being 70.6 for males and 73.1 for females.

The following Table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:-

TABLE I

Sex	Under										85 and Over
	1	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	
	Year.										
Males ... ...	6	-	-	1	2	9	20	31	53	61	24
Females ... ...	3	-	-	-	2	1	9	17	49	68	41
Totals	9	-	-	1	4	10	29	48	102	129	65

(b) Death Rate

The crude death rate for 1956 was 17.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 15.7 per 1,000 in the preceding year. The figures for 1954 and 1953, were 14.4 and 19.7 per 1,000 respectively.

The figure for the year under review can only be compared with those for the years 1955, 1954 and 1953 due to the inclusion in local statistics of all deaths at Milton Hospital irrespective of original place of residence. However, the figures for previous years back to 1930 are included in Table III.

It is interesting to note that if these particular deaths had not been assigned to this area the number of deaths for the Urban District during these four years, together with the crude death rate appertaining to such figures would have been as follows:-

Year	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate
1953	278	12.6
1954	227	10.3
1955	242	11.0
1956	271	12.2

The corrected death rate is 11.9 per 1,000 as compared with 11.7 per 1,000 for England and Wales as a whole.

(c) The causes of death classified by the Registrar-General under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948, are set out in Table II below:-

TABLE II

Cause		Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	... ...	2 ( 2)	1 ( 1)	3 ( 3) *
2. Tuberculosis, other	... ...	- ( -)	1 ( 1)	1 ( 1)
3. Syphilitic disease	... ...	- ( -)	1 ( -)	1 ( -)
4. Diphtheria	... ...	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
5. Whooping Cough	... ...	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
6. Meningococcal infections	... ...	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	... ...	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
8. Measles	... ...	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	... ...	- ( -)	- ( 1)	- ( 1)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	... ...	6 ( 4)	4 ( 4)	10 ( 8)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.. ..	9 ( 12)	2 ( 3)	11 ( 15)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	... ...	- ( -)	8 ( 4)	8 ( 4)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	... ...	- ( -)	1 ( 5)	1 ( 5)
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	... ...	12 ( 23)	9 ( 16)	21 ( 39)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	... ...	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
16. Diabetes	... ...	1 ( 1)	2 ( -)	3 ( 1)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	.. ..	42 ( 30)	46 ( 53)	88 ( 83)
18. Coronary disease, angina	... ...	28 ( 24)	26 ( 14)	54 ( 38)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	... ..	2 ( -)	1 ( 1)	3 ( 1)
20. Other heart disease	... ...	44 ( 39)	59 ( 42)	103 ( 81)
21. Other circulatory disease	... ...	13 ( 7)	6 ( 5)	19 ( 12)
22. Influenza	... ...	- ( -)	3 ( -)	3 ( -)
23. Pneumonia	... ...	10 ( 5)	1 ( 3)	11 ( 8)
24. Bronchitis	... ...	12 ( 7)	5 ( 4)	17 ( 11)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system		2 ( 4)	1 ( -)	3 ( 4)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	... ..	3 ( 1)	- ( -)	3 ( 1)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.. ..	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	... ...	2 ( -)	1 ( 2)	3 ( 2)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	... ..	1 ( 7)	- ( -)	1 ( 7)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	... ..	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
31. Congenital malformations	... ..	- ( 1)	1 ( 1)	1 ( 2)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	... ...	14 ( 6)	8 ( 10)	22 ( 16)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	... ..	2 ( 1)	- ( 1)	2 ( 2)
34. All other accidents	... ..	2 ( -)	3 ( 1)	5 ( 1)
35. Suicide	... ...	- ( 1)	- ( -)	- ( 1)
36. Homicide and operations of War	... ..	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
All Causes		207 (175)	190 (172)	397 (347)

Footnote:- \* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

As has been the case for many recent years, Heart Disease with associated conditions (267 or 67.2% of all deaths occurring) and Malignant Diseases (51 or 12.8% of all deaths occurring) have again been the main causes of death.

For the seventh successive year there were no deaths associated with Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

(d) The following Table gives details of deaths, births and infantile mortality for the period 1930 to 1956 inclusive.

TABLE III

Year	Population	Deaths.			Births.			Infant Mortality.			Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age per 1,000 Births	
		Number of Deaths at all Ages	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Still-Births	Legitimate	Illegitimate		
1930	19,838	257	12.8	332	20	352	17.6	7	14	1	15	42.6
1931	20,175	226	11.2	339	6	345	17.1	7	10	1	11	31.8
1932	20,320	222	10.9	342	13	355	17.4	12	22	1	23	64.7
1933	20,350	256	12.5	337	13	350	17.1	14	22	1	22	62.
1934	20,480	265	12.9	321	8	329	16.0	10	16	1	18	54.
1935	20,700	237	11.4	340	8	348	16.4	15	11	1	11	32.
1936	20,920	245	11.7	296	11	307	14.6	15	12	1	12	39.
1937	20,880	244	11.6	322	13	335	16.0	1	11	1	11	32.
1938	20,950	218	10.4	293	10	303	14.4	14	9	9	10	33
1939	20,860	262	12.4	318	10	328	15.7	15	8	8	9	27
1940	20,670	280	13.5	311	9	320	15.4	10	18	1	19	57
1941	19,880	247	12.4	257	11	268	13.4	7	6	6	6	22
1942	19,270	233	12.0	291	18	309	16.0	9	16	1	16	51
1943	18,790	249	13.2	334	14	348	18.5	13	17	1	17	48.8
1944	18,790	231	12.2	340	31	371	19.7	9	16	4	20	53.9
1945	19,140	236	12.3	350	34	384	20.0	11	12	3	15	39
1946	21,040	230	10.9	419	31	450	21.3	12	13	1	14	31
1947	21,560	248	11.5	509	23	532	24.4	15	17	1	17	32
1948	22,240	228	10.2	385	12	397	17.8	7	8	8	8	22
1949	22,150	271	12.2	355	19	374	16.8	7	15	1	15	37.4
1950	22,340	228	10.2	328	15	343	15.3	7	8	8	8	23
1951	21,920	265	12.0	332	15	347	15.8	8	14	1	14	40.3
1952	21,940	244	11.1	331	15	346	15.7	3	9	9	9	26.0
1953	21,930	433	19.7	340	17	357	16.2	6	16	1	16	44.8
1954	21,940	318	14.4	298	18	316	14.4	7	4	4	4	12.6
1955	21,970	347	15.7	327	16	343	15.6	4	4	4	4	11.6
1956	22,060	397	17.9	316	16	332	15.0	7	8	1	9	27.1

### 3. Infantile Mortality

(a) Nine deaths of infants under one year of age were recorded during the year under review, as compared with four in 1955.

The infant mortality rate for the year has correspondingly risen considerably, being 27.1 per 1,000 live births as against 11.6 per 1,000 in the previous year. Although this figure does appear to be disturbingly high, it does compare very favourably with the years 1953, 1952, 1951 and 1950 when the figures of 44.8, 26.0, 40.3 and 23.0 per 1,000 were recorded. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales as a whole has dropped from 24.9 per thousand live births in 1955 to 23.8 per thousand in the year under review.

(b) The detailed causes of death among infants during 1956 were as follows:-

TABLE IV

Cause	Sex	Age at Death	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Asphyxia Neonatorum	M	2 hours	Home	Home
Atelectosis - Prematurity	F	4 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Haemolytic Disease	M	6 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity	M	6 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity	F	12 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Prematurity	M	25 hours	Home	Home
Circulatory Failure	M	4 days	Hospital	Hospital
Laryngo-Tracheo-Bronchitis	F	5 months	Home	Hospital
Bronch-Pneumonia	M	7 months	Home	Hospital

### SECTION III

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

##### 1. Notifiable Diseases - Incidence

The year under review was a particularly healthy one judging by the fact that a total of 47 cases only of notifiable infectious diseases were received, this being the lowest total of cases notified for many years.

In 1955 a total of 516 cases were notified and reference to Table VII will show that in the years since 1945 notifications received were very heavy in comparison with 1956.

During the year, 13 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and, although this number is much lower than in previous years, this particular disease proved to be rather troublesome, particularly in connection with children at an Infants' School when a small epidemic broke out in December just before the School closed for the Christmas holiday. A report on this outbreak is included in Appendix "H".

The incidence of Whooping Cough was slightly higher than in the previous year, 11 cases being notified as against 5 in 1955, but this figure is well below that for 1954 when 168 cases were notified.

The number of cases of Measles notified was 6 only as compared with 439 cases in 1955.

There was a welcome absence of cases of Poliomyelitis, Meningitis, Pneumonia, Dysentery and Food Poisoning and, for the ninth successive year, there were no cases of Diphtheria notified.

The incidence of infectious disease over the past twelve years is contained in Table VII.

(a) The total number of cases occurring, number of cases admitted to Hospital and the total deaths from each disease as shown in the Registrar-General's classification of deaths, are shown in the following Table:-

TABLE V

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Admissions to Hospital or Sanatorium.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	13 ( 34 )	9 (25)	- ( - ) <sup>x</sup>
Diphtheria	- ( - )	- ( - )	- ( - )
Measles	6 (439)	- ( 1 )	- ( - )
Whooping Cough	11 ( 5 )	- ( - )	- ( - )
Food Poisoning	- ( 3 )	- ( - )	- ( - )
Dysentery	- ( - )	- ( - )	- ( - )
Erysipelas	1 ( 4 )	1 ( 2 )	- ( - )
Pneumonia	- ( - )	- ( - )	11 ( 8 )
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 ( 1 )	- ( - )	- ( - )
Acute Poliomyelitis	- ( 8 )	- ( 8 )	- ( - )
Meningitis	- ( 2 )	- ( 1 )	- ( - )
Tuberculosis:-			
Pulmonary	15 ( 19 )	14 (14)	3 ( 3 )
Non-Pulmonary	- ( 1 )	- ( 1 )	1 ( 1 )
Totals	47 (516)	24 (52)	15 (12)

Footnote:- <sup>x</sup> Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(b) The distribution by age group of the cases notified is shown in Table VI thus :-

TABLE VI

Age Groups of Cases Notified

Disease.	Under 1 Year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 60	60 and Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...									13
Diphtheria	...	...									11
Measles	...	...									6
Whooping Cough	...	...									1
Food Poisoning	...	...									1
Dysentery	...	...									1
Erysipelas	...	...									1
Pneumonia	...	...									1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...									1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...									1
Meningitis	...	...									1
Tuberculosis:-											15
Pulmonary	...	...									1
Non-Pulmonary	...	...									1
 Totals		4	5	7	17	2	4	2	5	1	47

(c) Table VII shows the number of cases of the infectious diseases each year during the past twelve years.

TABLE VII

Disease.	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	47	49	24	18	49	37	18	29	26	67	34	13
Diphtheria ...	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	364	114	75	438	222	544	226	297	332	-	439	6
Whooping Cough	53	36	33	188	63	86	219	32	26	168	5	11
Food Poisoning	-	-	28	15	2	3	1	-	-	-	3	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	4	4	4	3	7	8	5	2	2	5	4	1
Pneumonia ...	3	4	1	3	6	1	1	4	2	3	-	-
Typhus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal ) Pyrexia ... )	5	2	2	1	-	-	1	3	-	1	1	1
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorium	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	5	5	2	8
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	3	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 2. Tuberculosis

The fifteen new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year were all of the Pulmonary type, and this figure of new cases is the lowest recorded since 1943 when 13 cases were notified (9 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary). The corresponding figures for 1955 were 19 Pulmonary and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary. Figures for previous years are shown in Table VIII.

A Summary of Cases on the Tuberculosis Register during 1956 is shown in Table IX.

TABLE VIII

Year.	Number of Primary Notifications Received.		Deaths.		Death Rate per 10,000 of Population.	
	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
1930	30	3	24	3	12.1	1.5
1931	19	8	11	2	5.4	0.9
1932	20	3	11	2	5.3	0.9
1933	24	1	17	1	8.3	0.4
1934	15	3	17	1	8.3	0.4
1935	12	7	9	2	4.3	0.9
1936	12	5	10	1	4.7	0.4
1937	12	9	13	-	6.2	-
1938	12	4	8	2	3.8	0.9
1939	13	4	13	2	6.2	0.9
1940	11	1	11	1	5.3	0.4
1941	9	3	7	1	3.5	0.5
1942	15	4	8	-	4.0	-
1943	9	4	8	3	4.2	1.5
1944	14	3	7	1	3.7	0.5
1945	22	2	7	1	3.0	0.5
1946	14	2	9	1	4.0	0.4
1947	19	5	6	2	2.8	0.9
1948	19	6	8	1	3.5	0.4
1949	20	3	10	2	4.5	0.9
1950	18	6	1	1	0.4	0.4
1951	15	2	3	-	1.3	-
1952	17	1	3	1	1.3	0.4
1953	16	-	4	-	1.8	-
1954	19	3	-	1	-	0.4
1955	19	1	2	-	0.9	-
1956	15	-	3	1	1.3	0.4

During the year a total of 19 patients from the Sittingbourne area received institutional treatment, as shown in the Table overleaf, the particulars of which have once again been supplied by Dr. Owen Clarke, M.D., M.R.C.P., Consultant Chest Physician of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee.

The Table indicates that 7.9% of the patients on the Tuberculosis Register were admitted to Hospital or Sanatoria for treatment during 1956, as compared with 13.6% in 1955; 10.2% in 1954; 7% in 1953 and 11% in 1952.

<u>Institution.</u>								<u>Patients.</u>
Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grove Park Hospital, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Keycol Sanatorium, nr. Sittingbourne	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Preston Hall Hospital, Maidstone	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Queen Mary's Effusion Unit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lenham Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
All Saints Hospital, Chatham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
						Total		19

TABLE IX

Summary of Tuberculosis Register

		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
On Register on 1st January, 1956		193	34	227
Notified as 'new' Cases	...	15	-	15
Transferred to District	...	3	-	3
Restored to Register	...	-	-	-
Totals		211	34	245
Died	...	3	-	3
Recovered	...	1	-	1
Removed from District	...	1	-	1
Diagnosis Changed	...	-	-	-
Totals		5	-	5
Balance remaining on Register on 31st December, 1956	...	206	34	240

Footnote:-  $\phi$  This figure refers to patients on the Tuberculosis Register who have died - not necessarily from Tuberculosis.

It is with very much pleasure that reference may again be made regarding the excellent work carried out by the Members of the Sittingbourne, Milton and District Tuberculosis Care Committee for the benefit of patients under their care in the Urban District.

The Committee received 81 applications for assistance during the year, incurring an expenditure of over £250 to relieve the various difficulties and problems of the patients concerned. The Committee also put into operation a scheme for Holidays, in co-operation with the Social Welfare Department of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and during the year five patients, with their families, were sent on holiday at a total cost of almost £100.

There is no doubt that this Committee not only works very hard to obtain its funds, but also spends such available finances in a very careful and wise manner.

### 3. Venereal Diseases

I am again indebted to the Director and Medical Officer in Charge of the Special Clinic in Rochester (Dr. C.D. Routh, M.D., M.R.C.P.), supplied by the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, who has kindly given me the following information regarding the cases and numbers of attendances from this Urban District during the year. These are as follows:-

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Syphilis ... ... ... ...	- (-)	- (-)	- (-) *
Gonorrhoea ... ... ...	1 (-)	1 (-)	2 (-)
Non-Venereal (Genital Lesions) :.	14 (13)	9 (3)	23 (16)
 Totals	 15 (13)	 10 (3)	 25 (16)

The above refer to new cases during the year.

The total number of patients under treatment, both old and new, from the Urban District during 1956 was 47 as compared with 28 in 1955.

The total number of attendances was 220 as compared with 279 in 1955. Attendances in previous years were - 319 in 1954; 262 in 1953; 191 in 1952; 308 in 1951 and 424 in 1950.

Footnote:- \* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

#### 4. Vaccinations and Immunisations

The County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. A. Elliott) has very kindly supplied figures in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox, as follows:-

##### (a) Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children under 5 years of age protected against Diphtheria by Immunisation during 1956 was 56.2% as against 58.1% in 1955.

The percentages for the years 1954, 1953, 1952, 1951 and 1950 were 55.2%, 51.7%, 58.2%, 57.6% and 55.7% respectively.

During the year under review 265 primary inoculations and 295 reinforcing inoculations were carried out, as compared with 273 and 377 respectively in 1955. The figures for previous years were 292 and 202 respectively in 1954, 275 and 314 respectively in 1953, 268 and 175 respectively in 1952, 260 and 164 respectively in 1951 and 307 and 76 respectively in 1950.

##### (b) Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year, 220 primary vaccinations and 11 re-vaccinations were carried out as against 220 and 12 respectively in 1955. The figures for previous years were 240 and 8 respectively in 1954; 224 and 23 respectively in 1953; 217 and 38 respectively in 1952; 251 and 58 respectively in 1951 and 201 and 28 respectively in 1950. Of the primary vaccinations carried out during the year 199 were infants less than 2 years of age as compared with 197 in 1955 and 210 in 1954.

---

## SECTION IV

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

#### 1. National Health Services

Local Authority Health Services under the National Health Service Act are provided and administered by the Kent County Council as the local Health Authority. These Services include the Care of Mothers and Young Children; the provision of Midwives; Health visiting and Home Nursing; Vaccination and Immunisation; Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care and Domestic Health Services.

During the year several changes have taken place in the various Clinics in connection with these services and the Kent County Council arranged for the Orthopaedic Clinic and Domestic Help Service to be transferred from Johnson House to Sutton House, London Road, Sittingbourne, where the School Clinic and Food Offices are now situated.

The following list shows the dates and times of all clinics, together with the particular Centre at which they are held.

<u>Clinics and Sessions</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>Sutton House, London Road, Sittingbourne :-</u>		
Orthopaedic (by appointment)	Tuesday and Friday	10 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 - 4.30 p.m.
Domestic Help Service.	Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
<u>Johnson House, Burley Road, Sittingbourne :-</u>		
Infant Welfare	Tuesday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Relaxation Classes (by appointment)	Thursday	10.15 - 11.15 a.m.
Mothercraft Classes (by appointment)	Thursday	9.30 - 10.15 a.m.

(Note:- Vaccinations and Diphtheria Immunisations are given at the Infant Welfare Clinic, if required)

The Ante-Natal, Post-Natal and Family Planning Clinics ceased to function and were closed down on the 1st March, 1956. Expectant Mothers now attend their own Doctors or Midwives for inspection and advice.

The Pathologist's Clinic was closed on Wednesday, 11th April, 1956, as reported on Page 27.

Mental Welfare is provided by the Regional Hospital Board for patients from this Urban District, at 13, South Road, Faversham. The Sessions for this Clinic are held on Thursday evenings at 5 o'clock.

After representations by the Local Authority to the Kent County Council, an Infant and Child Welfare Clinic was opened at the Congregational Hall, Crown Road, Milton Regis, for the benefit of Mothers and Children in the Milton and Kemsley areas, on Thursday, 13th June, 1957. Arrangements have been made for this Clinic to be held fortnightly, i.e. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month, when a Doctor and a Health Visitor are in attendance.

A Nursery Class for partially deaf children between the ages of three and five years has been established in Gillingham and was actually opened during June, 1957. Children from the Sittingbourne District will be able to attend this Class.

The three Health Visitors (Kent County Council Staff) at Johnson House, who cover the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District, are - Mrs. E.M. Gibson, Miss P. Holmes and Miss B. Clarke.

## 2. Hospitals and Nursing Homes

There are two Hospitals in the Urban District, as follows:-

(a) Memorial Hospital, Bell Road, Sittingbourne.

The visiting hours at this Hospital are -

Sunday	-	2 p.m.	until	4 p.m.
Monday	-	7 p.m.	until	8 p.m.
Wednesday	-	2 p.m.	until	4 p.m.
Friday	-	7 p.m.	until	8 p.m.

(b) Milton Hospital, North Street, Milton Regis.

This Hospital has a Residential Section for aged people and Hospital facilities for the infirm and chronic sick.

(c) Cases of Infectious Disease, including patients suffering from Tuberculosis, are admitted for treatment to Keycol Hospital, Keycol Hill, Key Street, nr. Sittingbourne, which is situated on the main London Road, just outside the Urban District boundary. At this Hospital, there is also a Chest Clinic at which out-patients suffering from Tuberculosis and other

associated Chest complaints attend for X-rays and for periodic examinations by the Consultant Chest Physician.

There is one Nursing Home situated, and officially registered, in the Urban District. This Home is registered for maternity cases only for which four beds are provided. The Home is known as Lynton Nursing Home and is situated at 80, Park Road, Sittingbourne.

### 3. School Health Services

(a) I am again indebted to the County Medical Officer (Dr. A. Elliott) for providing me with a copy of the Annual Report on the School Health Services in the district during 1956, from which the following are interesting extracts:-

(i)	Number of Children inspected (Periodic inspections) ... ... ...	1,690 (1,942) <b>x</b>
(ii)	Number found requiring treatment ...	152 (124)
(iii)	Percentage ... ... ...	8.9% (6.3%)
(iv)	Frequency of main defects found:-	
	Orthopaedic defects ... ... ...	13.1% (7.2%)
	Eyes ... ... ...	67.7% (83.0%)
	Nose and Throat ... ... ...	2.6% (-)
	Developmental (including hernia) ...	1.9% (1.6%)
	Ears ... ... ...	3.2% (2.4%)

(b) The classification of children inspected in accordance with their general condition is as follows:-

	Number Inspected	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Entrants ... ...	348	341 (98.0%)	7 (2.0%) <b>x</b>
Second Age Group ...	354	354 (100.0%)	- (-)
Third Age Group ...	323	322 (99.7%)	1 (0.3%)
Other Periodic Inspections ...	665	661 (99.4%)	4 (0.6%)
	<b>1,690</b>	<b>1,678 (99.3%)</b>	<b>12 (0.7%)</b>

In spite of the fact that 1,690 children only were inspected during the year, as against 1,942 (a difference of 252) in the preceding year, it is disturbing to find that the number found requiring treatment increased from 124 in 1955 to 152 in 1956, an increase of 2.6%. However, the percentage of 8.9% found requiring treatment is still well below the percentages of 11.0%, 10.3% and 9.9% for the years 1954, 1953 and 1952 respectively.

Footnote:- **x** Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

Of the main defects found, those under the classification of Orthopaedic defects have increased from 7.2% to 13.1%, whereas Eye defects show a decrease from 83.0% to 67.7%. In 1955 there were no defects found in connection with the Nose and Throat, but 2.6% were found during the year under review. Developmental and Ear defects also slightly increased, from 1.6% to 1.9% and from 2.4% to 3.2% respectively.

(c) The total number of attendances at the Minor Ailment Clinics was 134 as compared with 171 in 1955 and 178 in 1954. The number of defects found was 111 as compared with 146 in 1955 and 149 in 1954. The majority of conditions treated were as follows:-

Minor injuries (including bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	...	...	...	89.1% (69.8%)	x
Skin conditions	...	...	...	2.7% ( 2.0%)	
Eye diseases	...	...	...	7.2% (28.0%)	
Ear conditions	...	...	...	0.9% ( - )	

(d) Dental Inspections and treatment figures are as follows:-

Number inspected by Dental Officers	...	...	3,445 (2,102)	x
Number found requiring treatment	...	...	1,833 (1,222)	
Percentage	...	...	53.2% (58.1%)	
Number actually treated	...	...	620 ( 266)	
Percentage	...	...	17.9% (12.6%)	

(e) Infestation with Vermin

The following information on examinations and treatment in connection with infestation with vermin in this area has also been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer.

(i) Total number of examinations in the Schools by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	...	...	...	4,651 (7,988)	x
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	...	...	...	15 ( 24)	
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2)), Education Act, 1944	...	...	...	9 ( 4)	

#### 4. Laboratory Services

The Pathologist's Clinic supplied by the South Eastern Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and held at Johnson House, was closed during the year owing to change of areas and lack of staff. The last Session was held on Wednesday, 11th April, 1956.

Footnote:- x Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

An approach was made to the Pathologist at All Saints' Hospital, Chatham, asking if it would be at all possible for this service to be restarted in the near future, especially as it had proved to be so worthwhile during the eight years period in which it had operated in the Sittingbourne area. It was found, however, that due mainly to the lack of staff this service could no longer be provided for the convenience and benefit of doctors and patients alike.

It is interesting to note that from the 7th April, 1948 until 11th April, 1956, a total of 4,682 patients attended this Clinic, as shown in the following Table.

TABLE X

Year				No. of Patients Attending.		
1948 (from 7th April)	...	...	...	...	...	235
1949	...	...	...	...	...	372
1950	...	...	...	...	...	432
1951	...	...	...	...	...	602
1952	...	...	...	...	...	601
1953	...	...	...	...	...	797
1954	...	...	...	...	...	799
1955	...	...	...	...	...	647
1956 (to 11th April)	...	...	...	...	...	197

#### 5. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 50)

The Department was not called upon to deal with any cases during the year.

#### 6. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47) as amended by National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, (Section 1)

The Department was not called upon to deal with any cases during the year.

#### 7. Old People's Welfare

During the year the Voluntary Visitors of the Old People's Welfare Committee continued to visit Old People in their homes doing much to bring some little joy into the lives of the house-bound.

The necessity for a Chiropody Service is emphasised when it is realised that 192 treatments were carried out during the year. There is no doubt at all that increased publicity would increase this number considerably.

The Night Sitting Service continues to fulfill a real need and 151 night sittings were done during the year.

Fortunately the Winter was mild and there was comparatively little sickness amongst Old People. It is to be regretted that in the event of considerable sickness amongst Old People it might well be found that the number of Night Sitters available would be unable to cope with the demands on the Service. Suitable Voluntary Workers for this satisfying Service would be welcomed by the Old People's Welfare Committee.

During the year the two Old People's Clubs in the District, one at Milton and one at Sittingbourne, have continued to flourish and fulfill an extremely useful function.

---

## SECTION V

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supply

The whole of the Urban District has, since the 1st April, 1956, been supplied from the Council's Undertaking.

The supply has been adequate both in quantity and quality during the year.

Twenty-three samples were submitted for examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

#### 2. Drainage and Sewerage

(a) No major alterations have been made in the Council's sewerage system during the year.

(b) The quality of the final effluent from the sewage disposal works continues to be unsatisfactory. Vigorous efforts to improve matters have continued throughout the year without a satisfactory conclusion. There appears to be little doubt that the unsatisfactory conditions at the works are bound up with trade waste flowing into the Council's sewers. A detailed investigation of all trade waste is in progress in an effort to secure a solution of the problem.

(c) Routine treatments against rodents in the sewerage system appear to have resulted in a reasonably low incidence of infestation.

#### 3. Scavenging

(a) The administration of the Council's refuse collection and disposal service is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor. Disposal is by means of tipping.

(b) The method of tipping inaugurated last year continues to be a decided improvement on the method which it replaced.

(c) Once again it is regretted that attention needs to be directed to the continued bad habits of a minority of the townspeople who persistently despoil any piece of vacant land in the town by the deposition of rubbish. This habit, apart from being unsightly and likely to cause danger to the public health, is costly to the ratepayers as a whole. With the adequate collection and disposal service provided by the Council, it is quite unnecessary for ratepayers to dispose illicitly of refuse to the detriment of the town.

#### 4. School Sanitation

The sanitary accommodation provided is maintained in a satisfactory manner.

The standard of hygiene in the School kitchens and canteens continues to be good.

A joint inspection with Kent Education Committee Officers was carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 when requirements necessary to bring some of the premises up to the required standard were agreed. The necessary work is steadily proceeding.

#### 5. Public Conveniences

The conveniences provided were generally maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

#### 6. Public Swimming Baths

(a) The swimming baths continued to be well used during the year.

(b) The standard of cleanliness at the baths continued to be satisfactory. Improvements were carried out to the filtration plant as part of the Council's policy to raise progressively the standard of equipment at the baths. The quality of the water, as indicated by the Analyst's reports, was maintained to a good standard.

(c) The use of private lockers for bathers was introduced during the year and this has tended to reduce the overcrowding of boxes during periods of heavy demand.

(d) Although all bathers are encouraged to use the existing foot baths before entering the pool, pre-cleansing will not be satisfactory until provision is made for heavily chlorinated water barriers between the dressing accommodation and the pool.

#### 7. Mortuary Accommodation

The only public mortuary accommodation in the town continues to be the old War-time mortuary in the Chapel at Sittingbourne Cemetery.

The Council have finally decided not to proceed with the major scheme for the adaptation of the existing building to provide a modern and satisfactory mortuary, but have now decided to consider a very much modified scheme which will provide for the minimum requirements of a building for the reception and holding of bodies until burial.

8. Service of Notices requiring the execution of works or the  
Abatement of Nuisance

- (a) 426 informal notices served (495) \*
- (b) 63 statutory notices served (152)
- (c) 269 informal notices complied with (398)
- (d) 80 statutory notices complied with ( 88)

9. Visits made by the Public Health Inspectors

The number of visits paid by the Public Health Inspectors during the year is shown in Appendix "E".

---

SECTION VIINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD1. Milk Supply

The following are the details of registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

## (a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

62 Milk Distributors and 7 Dairies were registered under the above Regulations.

## (b) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

During the year, 51 licences were issued under the above Regulations, analysed as follows:-

Sterilised (Dealers')	...	...	...	...	...	42
Pasteurised (Dealers')	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pasteurised (Dealers' Supplementary)				...	...	3

## (c) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

During the year, 6 licences were issued under the above Regulations, analysed as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested (Dealers')	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers' Supplementary)				...	3

## (d) Examination of Milk Supplies

(i) 21 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological or other prescribed examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone.

The following Table shows details of the results obtained:-

TABLE XI

Designation.	Number of Samples.	Result	
		Satisfactory.	Un- satisfactory.
Pasteurised and Heat-Treated Milks   ...   ...   ...   ...	20 (22)	20 (21)	- (1) <del>x</del>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised Milk)   ...   ...   ...   ...	1 ( 2 )	1 ( 2 )	- (-)
Totals	21 (24)	21 (23)	- (1)

(ii) One sample of raw milk was submitted for biological examination during the year. This sample was free from Tubercle infection.

## 2. Meat

(i) Two private slaughterhouses were licenced for the use of Butchers in the Town, and 194 visits were paid to these slaughterhouses during the year.

One hundred per cent inspection of all animals presented for slaughter was maintained throughout the year.

Comparatively little slaughtering is carried on. Most butchers appear to be buying their supplies from wholesalers outside the Town.

(ii) All foodstuffs condemned in the slaughterhouses are dyed green and disposed of under guarantee to a firm of bi-product manufacturers. No difficulties have arisen from this matter during the year.

Other foodstuffs condemned in Food Shops, are collected by the Department's transport and disposed of at the Council's tip. Suitable safeguards are taken to prevent the possibility of the use of condemned foodstuffs by unauthorised persons.

(iii) Table XII shows the details of the animals slaughtered and inspected, together with the numbers affected with disease.

The Table has been revised in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/55, dated 23rd November, 1955, so as to include horses slaughtered for human consumption among the animals, and cysticercosis among the diseases.

Footnote:- ~~x~~ Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

TABLE XII

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.	Total.
Number Killed ... (if known)	144	16	-	324	517	-	1001
Number Inspected ..	144	16	-	324	517	-	1001
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.							
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	35	4	-	20	43	-	102
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	24.3	25.0	-	6.4	8.3	-	(8.8) <sup>x</sup> 10.2
Tuberculosis only.							
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	8	3	-	-	5	-	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	5.5	18.7	-	-	0.9	-	(1.6) <sup>x</sup> 1.5
Cysticercosis.							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Footnote :- <sup>x</sup> Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

### 3. Other Foodstuffs Examined

(i) The details of foodstuffs of all types condemned during the year are shown in Appendix "D".

(ii) Seven complaints relating to the presence of foreign bodies in food were made during the year.

The foods involved in the complaints were - in 3 cases milk; in 3 cases cakes and in 1 case bread. The foreign bodies were - in 2 cases tinfoil in bottles of milk; a sea shell in a bottle of milk; nails in a loaf of bread and a date slice; a piece of string in a doughnut and gravel in a Dundee cake.

All the complaints were thoroughly investigated and steps taken in the factories to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents. In all cases cautions were given to the firms concerned.

In connection with extraneous matter finding its way into foodstuff, particularly milk bottles, the public should be aware that milk bottles are designed and specifically supplied as containers for milk only and should not be used as containers for paint, oil, paraffin and so on. Dairymen would be materially assisted in maintaining high standards if the consumer would rinse milk bottles as soon as their contents are emptied and refrain from using them as containers for any other substance.

### 4. Shellfish

No case of illness attributable to shellfish was notified during the year.

During the year sales of shellfish from mobile vendors, particularly at public houses were noted. All the vendors concerned come from outside the Town and difficulty has been experienced in exercising proper supervision of this class of trader. A sample of cockles obtained from a mobile trader upon examination was found to be unsatisfactory. The matter was reported to the Public Health Department of the district in which the trader resided and some improvement in hygienic conditions has been achieved.

The public are again reminded that the consumption of shellfish purchased from dealers, other than reputable and well established firms, can involve serious risks to themselves.

### 5. Fish Frying

(i) Eight fish frying establishments are in operation in the area.

(ii) 9 visits of inspection were made during the year.

(iii) Hygienic standards continue to be satisfactory.

## 6. Ice Cream

(i) The numbers of premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream are:-

Sale and storage of Ice Cream	...	...	82 (81)	x
Storage of Ice Cream	...	...	4 (3)	
Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	8 (8)	

(ii) Four samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the Provisional Modified Methylene Blue Reductase Test, with the following results:-

		1956	1955
Grade I	...	4 (100%)	5 (83.3%) x
Grade II	...	- (-)	1 (16.6%)
Grade III	...	- (-)	- (-)
Grade IV	...	- (-)	- (-)

(iii) The majority of ice cream sold in the Town is produced by National manufacturers and invariably is sold pre-packed. No difficulty has been experienced in the supervision of this Trade during the year.

## 7. Bakehouses

(i) Eight bakehouses are registered and in operation in the area.

(ii) 18 visits of inspection were made during the year. The conditions generally have been found to be satisfactory.

## 8. Restaurant Kitchens

(i) The number of restaurant kitchens (including works canteens and school kitchens) in the area is - 33.

(ii) The standard of hygiene attained was on the whole satisfactory. Considerable works of improvement to bring premises up to the standard required under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 are being carried out. The co-operation of the Trade has generally been satisfactory.

## 9. Public Houses

(i) The number of Public Houses in the area is - 48.

(ii) The premises have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

#### 10. Food Preparing Premises

(i) Twenty-three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausage and preserved foods.

(ii) Improvements at various premises have been carried out, or started, to bring them up to the standards required under the Regulations. Generally the premises have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

#### 11. General Hygiene in Food Premises

During the year many of the food premises were visited with particular regard to the implications and requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Steady progress has been made in the modernisation of premises, usually with the eventual co-operation of the food trader concerned. It is fair comment to state that invariably although modernisation costs are frequently high, the trader does reap a return by way of increased trade as the public will now patronize premises where good standards of hygiene are apparent.

The Department is still concerned at the lavish display of foods in shop windows where they are exposed to the possibility of contamination by dust and flies as well as spoilage from the effects of sun. Some progress has, however, been achieved by the use of refrigerated window and counter displays.

During the year a course on Hygienic Food Handling, expressly for people engaged in the food trades, was jointly arranged by the Department and the Kent Education Committee. The course was to be held at Borden Grammar School Evening Institute and was to have been given jointly by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector. The response was, to say the least, disappointing particularly having regard to the publicity given to it to food traders in the Town, and had to be abandoned.

#### 12. Details of Inspection

These details are shown in Appendix "E".

#### 13. The Number and Type of Food Premises in the Area

These details are shown in Appendix "G".

#### 14. Samples taken by the Food and Drugs Authority

I am very grateful to the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, County Hall, Maidstone (Mr. S. Strugnell), for again supplying the following details of samples of food taken by the County Sampling Officers in the Urban District of Sittingbourne and Milton, under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:-

Article									No. of Samples
Almond Marzipan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beef Steak with Gravy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bile Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brandy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cascara Sagrada	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chicken Broth with Rice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cornish Pasty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Crookes Halibut Oil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Double Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eucalyptus Oil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flaked Rice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flip	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
French Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Friars Balsam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Germ Ointment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Glycerine, Lemon and Honey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Glycerine, Lemon and Ipecacuanha Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ground White Pepper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Horseradish Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Jelly Crystals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Liquid Paraffin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malt Vinegar with Salt and Caramel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meringue Fingers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Milk Chocolate Cigarettes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Chocolate Coins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Fairy Drops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Loaf	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Orange Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pickled Onions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pork Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Processed Cheddar Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Raspberry Jam Roly-Poly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rolgex Analgesic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sardines in Olive Oil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Swel prepared mixed vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Two Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Summary

Milk	...	...	...	34
Drugs	...	...	...	10
Spirits	...	...	...	3
Other samples	...	...	...	38
	Total			85

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:-

Sample of:	Analysis:	Action Taken:
T.T. Channel Islands Milk.	7.5% deficient in fat. Fat 3.7%, Solids not Fat 9.0%.	As a follow-up sample was satisfactory (4.0% fat) no further action was taken.
T.T. Milk.	16.7% deficient in Fat.	Informal sample on delivery. Further sample satisfactory.
Milk Chocolate Cigarettes.	Fat 35.9% (including not more than 0.8% butter), milk protein 5.6%. Skimmed milk chocolates.	Manufacturers agreed to use full cream milk instead of skimmed milk.

SECTION VII

DISINFECTION, DISINFESTATION AND RODENT CONTROL

1. Disinfection

(i) Forty-seven rooms at 33 premises were disinfected on account of infectious disease during the year. In addition, 3 Class Rooms and a Cloak Room were disinfected in connection with the outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Milton Regis Infants' County Primary School, as reported in Appendix "H".

(ii) All library books found at premises where a case of notifiable disease has occurred are disinfected by formaldehyde before being returned to circulation.

(iii) Steam disinfection continues to be carried out at the Milton Hospital by the courtesy of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee. Every co-operation and assistance is received from the Administrator of the Hospital and his Staff in carrying out this work.

2. Disinfestation

(i) The following tables indicate the work carried out during the year:-

(a) Bed Bugs

	Infestations					Rooms
	Premises					
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	3 (4)	x 7 (11) x
Other Houses	...	...	...	...	2 (47)	3 (125)
Totals					5 (51)	10 (136)

Footnote:- x Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(b) Fleas

(ii) Other disinfestations carried out during the year were as follows :-

(a) At the Sittingbourne Police Station, 5 cells were treated on account of Vermin.

(b) Rooms of 3 houses and the outside walls of a further house were treated on account of Slugs.

(c) A Cabin of a Lighter was treated on account of Bugs.

(d) A compost heap at King George's Field was treated on three occasions, on account of Flies.

(e) The outside walls of 9 new Council Houses were treated on account of Clover Mite.

(f) Routine treatment of Civil Defence bedding was carried out on account of Moths.

(iii) In addition, 15 Wasps' and 1 Bees' Nests were treated and destroyed, and the usual anti-mosquito measures were carried out in ponds and at other sites.

(iv) The main insecticides used during the year were 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene and Gammexane.

(v) The number of visits made during the year by the Department's Operator in connection with disinfection and disinfestation, was 488 as compared with 559 visits in 1955.

3. Rodent Control

(i) The Council employ one part-time Rodent operator.

(ii) The following table gives details of the work carried out during the year:-

TABLE XIII

	Local Authority.	Dwelling-Houses.	Agricultural.	All other (including Business Premises).	Type of Property Total.
i. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	18	6950	16	666	7650
ii. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1956, as a result of -	(a) 3 (2)	163 (145)	6 (6)	28 (37)	200 (190) <sup>x</sup>
	(b) 8 (6)	134 (385)	1 (9)	91 (11)	234 (411)
	(c) 3 (2)	19 (16)	- (-)	122 (232)	144 (250)
iii. Number of properties (under ii) found to be infested by rats.	Major 6 (6)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (2)	7 (8)
	Minor 3 (2)	111 (102)	6 (6)	8 (18)	128 (128)
iv. Number of properties inspected (see Section ii) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	- (-)	60 (47)	- (-)	22 (17)	82 (64)
v. Number of infested properties (see Sections iii and iv) treated by the Local Authority.	9 (8)	171 (149)	6 (6)	31 (37)	217 (200)

Footnote:- <sup>x</sup> Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(iii) The number of visits made during the year was 2,422 (including 234 routine survey visits) as against 2,239 visits in the previous year.

(iv) In addition to the above, the usual maintenance treatments of the Council's sewerage system were carried out during the year.

---

SECTION VIIIHOUSING1. Inspections

The number and character of inspections carried out during the year in connection with housing is as follows:-

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected during the year for housing defects	... ... ... ...	504	( 742 ) *
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	...	21	( 7 )
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ... ... ...	14	( 18 )
(d) Number of houses found defective in some essential particular	... ...	406	( 469 )
(e) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice	... ...	269	( 398 )
(f) Reinspections of houses	... ... ...	2,679	( 3,266 )
(g) Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-			
(i) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ...	-	( - )
(ii) Proceedings under Public Health Act		63	( 152 )
(iii) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	15	( 10 )
(iv) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ...	-	( - )

Footnote:- \* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(v) Action under Section 25 of the  
Housing Act, 1936:-

No. of Areas represented as unfit.	No. of Dwellings in the Areas.	No. of Dwellings demolished during the year.
- (1)	- (8)	23 (30) <sup>x</sup>

2. Provision of Houses

The Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. A.W.Lloyd) has kindly supplied the following information in connection with the number of houses built each year since the end of the War:-

TABLE XIV

Year	Council Houses	Police Houses	Private Enterprise	War destroyed houses re-built	Total
	Temporary	Permanent			
1946	50	33	-	2	85
1947	-	57	-	5	62
1948	-	44	-	3	49
1949	-	70	-	3	81
1950	-	72	-	7	87
1951	-	82	-	8	94
1952	-	140	2	2	144
1953	-	118	-	3	121
1954	-	200	11	34	245
1955	-	94	6	13	113
1956	-	82	-	52	134
Totals	50	992	19	132	1,215

3. Repair and Maintenance of Houses

(a) The condition of many houses within the Urban District continues to give anxiety. Whilst it is true that considerable works of repair have been carried out during the year, much of it was mere patching. Unless ways and means are found to enable houses to be thoroughly repaired to a first-class condition, together with necessary improvements, a most serious housing problem will face the Council even when they have successfully completed their declared slum clearance programmes. It is to be hoped that the Rent Act, 1957 will enable and encourage owners of rented property to carry out necessary repairs and improvements.

(b) Three applications only, under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for Certificates of Disrepair, were made during the year and Certificates were issued in all cases. One Revocation Certificate was issued. Since this Act came into force a total of 27 Certificates of Disrepair have been issued and 8 of these have been Revoked.

(c) Improvement Grants - Section 20, Housing Act, 1949

During the year, 20 improvement schemes were submitted to the Council under the Housing Act, 1949, and were approved. The total cost of these approved applications was £5,856 and the total amount of the Grants made was £2,919. Two of the approved schemes were later cancelled at the applicants' request. Completion Certificates were issued in 24 cases, but 14 of these were in respect of approved 1955 applications.

#### 4. Rehousing

The Housing Officer (Mr. B. King) has kindly supplied the following figures regarding rehousing in the Urban District.

(i) During the year, it was found possible to provide housing accommodation for 235 families, as follows:-

- (a) 13 families rehoused in existing temporary houses (7) \*
- (b) 32 families rehoused in pre-war Council houses (41)
- (c) 175 families rehoused in post-war Council houses (162)
- (d) 15 families rehoused in privately owned houses by arrangement with owners' consent (12)

(ii) In addition to the above-mentioned families rehoused by the Council, it is known that 6 applicants were rehoused by other Authorities and 20 others found accommodation privately. In the previous year the figures were 6 and 30 respectively.

#### 5. Housing Applications

The Housing Officer has also very kindly supplied the following information regarding Housing Applications.

(a) The following Table shows the details of the number of applicants in the various categories on the Council's Housing List at 31st December, 1956:-

TABLE XV

1. Number of Applicants on 'Live List'	...	...	473	(478) *
2. Number of 'Late Applications'	...	...	161	(175)
Total Number of Applicants			634	(653)

Footnote:- \* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(b) Table XVI shows the various classes into which the applicants on the 'Live List' fall:-

TABLE XVI

∅	No.	%
1. Applicants living and working outside Sittingbourne	...	-
2. Single Applicants	...	21
3. Applicants who are tenants of houses within the Urban District	...	220
4. Applicants living in rooms as sub-tenants or lodgers within the Urban District	...	232
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	473	
	<hr/>	

#### 6. Common Lodging House

One Common Lodging House is registered, the accommodation available being 30 beds.

During the year increasing use was made of the accommodation by persons engaged on large structural schemes being carried out in the vicinity.

---

Footnote:- ∅ The only applicants left on the list under Section 1 of Table XVI are members of H.M. Forces. All others, who lived outside the Sittingbourne area, were deleted from the List in accordance with Minute No. 903 of 5th December, 1955.

SECTION IXFACTORY ADMINISTRATION

Factories Act, 1937

(i) Number of Factories on Register:-

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	91
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	11
(c) Other Premises	...	...	...	...	3

(ii) Number of Inspections:-

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	125
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	9
(c) Other Premises	...	...	...	...	5

(iii) Number of Written Notices:-

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	-

(iv) Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ... ...	-	3	-	3
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ... ...	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):-				
(a) insufficient ... ...	2	1	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	5	8	-	2
(c) not separate for sexes ...	-	-	-	2
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ... ...	-	1	-	-
Totals	7	13	-	7

APPENDIX "A"RAINFALL

Recorded at Highsted Waterworks

Month	Rainfall (inches)					
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	... ...	2.98	2.31	0.81	1.79	3.66
February	... ...	6.66	0.96	0.97	2.27	2.07
March	... ...	3.53	3.89	0.19	1.97	1.60
April	... ...	2.27	0.98	1.74	0.22	0.17
May	... ...	2.17	0.90	2.43	1.69	4.35
June	... ...	1.67	1.19	2.86	4.16	2.78
July	... ...	2.05	0.71	2.52	2.45	2.45
August	... ...	4.72	3.10	1.60	4.15	2.95
September	... ...	3.84	4.04	3.08	1.43	2.18
October	... ...	1.08	2.23	2.13	2.18	4.53
November	... ...	3.81	4.38	1.36	6.28	0.74
December	... ...	2.41	2.57	0.66	1.78	1.92
Total Rainfall	...	37.19	27.26	20.35	30.37	29.40
						24.28

Note:- The annual rainfall average over recent years

in the Urban District is - 26.88 inches.

APPENDIX "B"TEMPERATURES

Recorded at Johnson House, Sittingbourne

Month	Maximum			Minimum		
	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955	1956
January	... ...	58°	53°	56°	14°	19°
February	... ...	56°	59°	48°	16°	22°
March	... ...	63°	60°	70°	28°	23°
April	... ...	68°	78°	72°	28°	30°
May	... ...	88°	72°	86°	36°	36°
June	... ...	82°	82°	81°	42°	41°
July	... ...	80°	93°	89°	43°	49°
August	... ...	86°	86°	87°	46°	46°
September	... ...	85°	85°	81°	38°	39°
October	... ...	72°	72°	72°	30°	26°
November	... ...	62°	66°	62°	29°	22°
December	... ...	61°	63°	59°	27°	23°
						26°

APPENDIX "C"

ENUMERATED	POPULATION	BY	AGE	GROUPS	AT	CENSUS
		TAKEN	ON	8th	APRIL,	1951

(Source: Table 22, Census 1951, County Report: Kent)

Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District		Age Groups
Males	Females	
967	950	0 - 4
838	731	5 - 9
764	734	10 - 14
621	776	15 - 19
663	764	20 - 24
750	736	25 - 29
770	785	30 - 34
739	779	35 - 39
800	833	40 - 44
797	768	45 - 49
727	715	50 - 54
563	622	55 - 59
498	591	60 - 64
425	528	65 - 69
392	417	70 - 74
236	238	75 - 79
115	134	80 - 84
37	77	85 - 89
7	13	90 - 94
-	4	95 and Over
10,709	11,195	All Ages

APPENDIX "D"DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS OF ALL TYPESCONDEMNED DURING 1956

		Lbs.	Lbs.
(a) Condemned at Slaughterhouses :-			
1 Sheep	Sapraemia	67	
Edible Offal		1,084	1,151
(b) Condemned in Shops :-			
Meat	...	295	
Fish	...	14	
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs (including canned Milk, Meat, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, Jam etc.)	...	1,631	1,940
Total	Lbs.	3,091	
Total - 1 Ton 7 Cwts 2 Qrs 11 Lbs			
( 2 Tons 9 Cwts 1 Qr 24 $\frac{1}{4}$ Lbs )	x		

Footnote:- x Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.



## Inspections

Total b/f

4017

## Rat Infestation (not recorded elsewhere)

Houses Inspected (first inspections) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Houses Inspected (reinspections) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Premises (first inspections) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other Premises (reinspections) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>10</u> 33

## Enquiries or Visits

Contractors or Owners interviewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	276
Contacts of Infectious Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Notifiable Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Other Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	523
Office Interviews ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	437
Port Visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Lectures ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Civil Defence - Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Flooding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Housing Tenancies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
Improvement Grants ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>196</u> 1839

## Food and Drugs and Other Sampling

Samples of Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Samples of Swimming Bath Water ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Samples of Water obtained - Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Samples of Milk obtained - Bacteriological ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Samples of Milk obtained - Biological ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Bacteriological Specimens ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>8</u> 59

## Factories

Factories with Mechanical Power - Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
- Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Factories without Mechanical Power - Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
- Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>9</u> 134

Total

6082

(7071) \*

Footnote:- \* Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

APPENDIX "F"NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING 1956Works Executed

Totals

## Houses

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Brickwork of walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Doors and frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Floors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Floors ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grates or Ovens repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Inside plastering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved									2
Roofs renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Rain water pipes or gutters renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Washing coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water taps or pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Window cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Yard paving relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	519

## Drainage

Bath wastes trapped or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains tested, Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Drains tested, Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection or Interception chambers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Inspection or Interception chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sinks trapped or waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	153

Total c/f

672

Total b/f

672

## Water Closets

Additional Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flushing apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
New pans and traps fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Water Closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								102

## Tents, Vans, Sheds

Removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Food Shops, Kitchens, and Premises Used for Preparation  
or Manufacture of Preserved Foods

Cleanliness improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lighting or ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Storage arrangements improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washing-up sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								6

Total

793

(1279)

APPENDIX "G"LIST SHOWING NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD SHOPSIN THE AREA

Type	Number
1. Meat Shops (including Shops carrying out the preparation and/or manufacture of preserved foods) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	23
2. Restaurants and Dining Room Kitchens (including Works' Canteens and School Kitchens) ... ... ...	33
3. Food Shops ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ...	75
4. Factories handling Food ... ... ... ... ...	18
5. Fried Fish Shops ... ... ... ... ... ...	8
6. Ice Cream Retailers ... ... ... ... ... ...	82
7. Milk - Dealers ... ... ... ... ... ...	48
Dairies ... ... ... ... ...	7
8. Public Houses ... ... ... ... ... ...	48

APPENDIX "H"REPORT ON OUTBREAK OF SCARLET FEVER,  
MILTON REGIS COUNTY PRIMARY INFANTS' SCHOOL.

A small outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Milton Infants' School occurred when three cases of children, aged 6, 7 and 8 years respectively, were notified on 17th, 18th and 20th December, 1956. It was considered advisable to have nose and throat swabs taken from all the children and teachers in this particular School, in order to control the spread of the disease throughout the District, especially in view of the fact that this outbreak occurred just before the School Christmas parties and the closing down of the School for the Christmas holiday. Assistance was obtained from the three Health Visitors at Johnson House (County Council Staff) and on the 19th and 20th December, 1956, nose and throat swabs were taken from 123 children and teachers of this School (246 swabs in all).

The Public Health Laboratory reported that there were 35 positive Haemolytic Streptococci in respect of throat swabs and 11 positive Haemolytic Streptococci in respect of nose swabs. These referred to 39 children. A report was also received from Dr. Walker, the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone, who had typed a proportion of the Group A Streptococci isolated at Milton Infants' School. Several types were isolated 1, 4 and 8/25. The predominating type was 8/25, about 90%. Unfortunately the Laboratory at Chatham had destroyed the plates cultured from patients at Keycol Hospital, so it was impossible to ascertain the main epidemic type.

The eleven Doctors in the Sittingbourne area were circulated on the 21st December, 1956, regarding this outbreak, informing them that Mothers of positive cases had been advised to take their child or children to their own Doctor for any treatment required, and that further supplies of nose and throat swabs could be obtained from the Public Health Department.

In addition to the above, three class rooms and the cloak room were disinfected by Formalin spray at Milton Infants' School.

There are three Schools in this area, all within the same curtilage, and all have some degree of overcrowding, but there is no inter-communication between the Schools. The Schools are:-

- |  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| 1. Milton Regis County Primary Infants'      | - | 139 Children. |
| 2. Milton Regis County Primary Junior Girls' | - | 196 Children. |
| 3. Milton Regis County Primary Junior Boys'  | - | 209 Children. |

Arrangements were made for all the positive cases to be re-swabbed either by their own Doctors or by the Health Visitors and arising out of the re-swabbing all nasal cases were negative but in the case of the throat there were 4 Positive, 3 Moderate, 1 Heavy and 2 Scanty results.

It appeared that the action taken had been successful in preventing spread, as no further cases in connection with this School were notified up to the 31st December, 1956, but the position was very closely being kept under observation, and the return of the children to School after the Christmas holiday was awaited with interest to see if there would be any new cases reported or any further developments in connection with this particular disease at this School.

---

